

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-03 AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01 L-03 SSO-00

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R 010806Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5165

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 7788

SECDEF FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DAVIS, NATHANIEL), PFOR MASS XA ET

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TO ETHIOPIA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 7716

1. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS AND AMBASSADOR MET WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE AND ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER KIFLE WORKU
JUNE 30 FOR DISCUSSION OF GENERAL US/EPMG WORKING RELATIONSHIP IN
MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SPECIFIC ITEMS, INCLUDING F5AS, TANKS,
TOW MISSILES, AND RADAR. END SUMMARY.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS, AMBASSADOR HUMMEL AND MAAG
CHIEF, BRIG. GENERAL YOW, MET JUNE 30 AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE, ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER
KIFLE WORKU, AND OTHER
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OFFICIALS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE DIRG MEMBERS, FOR NEARLY TWO-HOUR

DISCUSSION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA. FOREIGN
MINISTER KIFLE MADE COMPLETE EPMG PRESENTATION.

3. KIFLE OPENED DISCUSSION BY REVIEWING HISTORY OF US ROLE IN
ETHIOPIAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS IN CONTEXT TO SOMALI THREAT, NOTING
HIS AWARENESS THAT US AND ETHIOPIA DIFFER IN PERCEPTION OF
SERIOUSNESS AND IMMEDIACY OF THAT THREAT. KIFLE SAID ETHIOPIA
PERCEIVED THREAT AS IMMEDIATE, URGENT AND REQUIRING QUOTE EMERGENCY
PLANNING UNQUOTE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF INCREASED SOVIET AND
ARAB SUPPORT TO SOMALIA. US RESPONSE TO ETHIOPIA'S EXPRESSED NEEDS
QUOTE HAD NOT MEASURED UP TO ITS REQUIREMENTS OR TO THREAT OF
SITUATION UNQUOTE, PARTICULARLY IN SPEED OF DELIVERY. ETHIOPIAN
PLANNING WAS HAMPERED ALSO BY INABILITY TO CONSIDER US ASSISTANCE
AS PACKAGE, SINCE AVAILABILITY AND DELIVERY TIMING OF SOME
COMPONENTS WERE UNKNOWN.

4. AS EXAMPLES OF INSTANCES OF US NOT MAKING SPECIAL EFFORT, KIFLE
CITED F5AS, M-60 TANKS, AND TOW MISSILES. ETHIOPIA HAD ORIGINALLY
WANTED PHANTOM JETS, BUT AS RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS AGREED THEY WERE
TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE AND WERE OFFERED F5ES AS
SUBSTITUTE. F5ES PROVING UNAVAILABLE IN TIME FRAME REQUIRED,
ETHIOPIA HAD SETTLED FOR URGENT DELIVERY OF F5AS, WHICH STILL HAD
NOT ARRIVED, AND ON WHICH FIRM DELIVERY DATE STILL UNKNOWN. EPMG
HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE DECISION ON DEFENSIVE RADAR SYSTEM SINCE
F5AS WOULD BE NEEDED TO PROTECT RADAR. TWENTY-TWO M-60 TANKS
HAVE BEEN DELIVERED BUT A FURTHER INCREMENT WAS STILL AWAITED.
PROMISED. ANTITANK TOW MISSILES WERE ALSO STILL TO ARRIVE.

5. DAVIS RESPONDED THAT US WAS DISAPPOINTED TO HEAR THAT
EPMG BELIEVED THAT US HAD NOT MADE SPECIAL EFFORT TO MEET
ITS NEEDS SINCE IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT ETHIOPIA HAD BEEN
GIVEN UNIQUE CONSIDERATION. US HAD MADE M-60 TANKS AVAILABLE
TO NO OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRY AND HAD SUPPLIED THEM FROM OWN
FIRST-LINE UNITS IN EUROPE. EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT HAD ALSO BEEN
MADE TO SUPPLY TOW MISSILES, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY NOW BE
DELIVERED BY END OF JULY. THERE WAS NOW AGREEMENT ON \$25
MILLION CREDIT, ANY PAST DELAY ON WHICH WAS DUE ONLY TO US
EFFORTS TO MAKE UNIQUELY SOFT CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE TO
ETHIOPIA. US HAD EXERTED STRONGLY EFFORT WHEN EPMG HAD PROBLEM
OF AMMUNITION SUPPLY, ACCEPTING POLITICAL RISK OF USING US
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MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO MEET ETHIOPIA'S NEED. DAVIS URGED
SERIOUS, COOPERATIVE EFFORT BE MADE TO LOOK AT PROBLEMS
TOGETHER AND THAT ETHIOPIA NOT CONSIDER EXCEPTIONAL US EFFORTS
AS EVIDENCE THAT DELAYS WERE DUE TO LESS THAN SERIOUS EFFORTS.

6. KIFLE RESPONDED THAT EPMG WAS FULLY COGNIZANT OF THAT US HAD
DONE AND THAT ANY IMPLIED CRITICISM WAS DUE SOLELY TO COUNTRY'S
QUOTE FIXATION UNQUOTE WITH EMERGENCY SITUATION. ETHIOPIA DID

NOT MEAN TO PROD US AND GREATLY APPRECIATED US UNDERSTANDING.
HOWEVER, ETHIOPIA FEARED THAT PUBLIC AIRING OF US RELUCTANCE TO
AID ETHIOPIA AT TIME OF AMMUNITION RESUPPLY HAD ENCOURAGED SOMALIA.

7. DAVIS REPLIED THAT US HAD FACED POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS
ON RESUPPLY AND HAD BEEN FRANK WITH EPMG ABOUT THEM.
RESPONDING TO PREVIOUS KIFLE COMMENT THAT ETHIOPIA HAD
NOTHING TO OFFER US, DAVIS NOTED THAT EPMG MIGHT WISH TO
CONSIDER EFFECT OF STATEMENTS ABOUT US BY ITS PUBLIC ORGANS
ON US/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. HE CITED AS EXAMPLE RECENT
ETHIOPIAN PRESS REPORT ACCUSING US OF HAVING STARTED KOREAN
WAR. KIFLE RESPONDED THAT EPMG RECOGNIZED ITS INDEBTEDNESS
TO US, A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD, THAT PRESS DID NOT ALWAYS
REFLECT EPMG VIEWS AND THAT SOME AMENDS HAD BEEN MADE.

8. KIFLE CLOSED MEETING BY RAISING OTHER SPECIFIC ITEMS SOUGHT BY
EPMG, INCLUDING MORE RESERVE AMMUNITION, AMMUNITION FOR SECOND
INCREMENT OF TANKS, F5B RECONNAISSANCE AND TRAINING AIRCRAFT, AND
"PROMISED" HELICOPTERS. DAVIS CORRECTED RECORD ON HELICOPTER
"PROMISE" AND ASSURED KIFLE THAT EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT WOULD
GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO ALL REQUESTS MENTIONED. KIFLE
EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THESE ASSURANCES AND ASSERTED AGAIN THAT
US DECISIONS WERE NEEDED URGENTLY TO PERMIT EPMG TO PROCEED
WITH EMERGENCY PLANNING.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS07788
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750227-0982
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750793/aaaadfji.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ADDIS ABABA 7716
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, MASS, XA, ET, (DAVIS, NATHANIEL), (KIFLE WODAJJO), (KIFLE WORKU)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006